# CENLA DELEGATION PRESSES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT 259TH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SQUADRON

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO TAKE ACTION TO REVERSE DISBANDING

District 29 State Senator Rick Gallot (D - Ruston) is joining forces with other CenLa legislators to get Washington to change its mind and reverse plans to dismantle a long-standing asset to the community. Senate Concurrent Resolution 55 urges the Louisiana congressional delegation to take all action necessary in order to reverse the Air Force's decision to disband the 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron, a Louisiana Air National Guard squadron of air traffic controllers working at Alexandria International Airport.

The budget-related decision to disband the 110-airman unit was made by the Department of Defense without input from Louisiana's congressional delegation or the Louisiana Air National Guard and could result in a direct economic loss to Central Louisiana of $3 million each year. Sen. Gallot, along with 14 other legislators who are co-authoring the measure, understand that it is essential that the uniquely-staffed squadron remain intact because it serves such a vital role in the safety of Louisiana and the United States.

"The 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron is an important asset to Central Louisiana, the entire state and the entire nation," said Sen. Gallot. "Our legislative delegation is united in the effort to do all we can to save the future of Alexandria International Airport."

Co-authors of measure are Senators Adley, Kostelka, Long, Riser, LaFleur, John Smith and Walsworth and Representatives Armes, Brown, Cox, Dixon, Harris and Hazel.

Once approved by the state legislature, Senate Concurrent Resolution 55 will be sent to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Louisiana delegation, to the United States Congress and the governor of Louisiana.

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